

full-time safety experts on pinpointing the causes of mishaps and targeting remedial actions that maximize force protection. She led the establishment of the Navy's 1,001 Safety Success Stories Project, which now serves as a web based showcase of the U.S. Navy's safety accomplishments. Additionally, Captain Considine developed a multimedia presentation of the Navy's occupational safety and health program for safety professionals and Navy Public Affairs. In fact, in March 2003, she was selected to speak on a panel before the Royal Australian Navy regarding military safety. Over the years, Captain Considine has been called up to active duty over a dozen times when her country needed her, including during Desert Storm.

Captain Considine's awards include two U.S. Navy Commendations and the Alaska Humanitarian Services Medal, earned in 1995 as an Officer in charge of a medical detachment to the Northwest Arctic.

Outside of her military accomplishments, Captain Considine is actively involved as an adult literacy program volunteer, a pro-bono technical book reviewer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a community advocate for school board accountability and public safety, and much more. As a recent example of her care and service to others, she purchased and shipped several hundred pounds of supplies and personal care items to our military members serving in the War on Terrorism out of her own pocketbook.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Noreen Considine is a woman dedicated to her community and country. Her tireless dedication to the U.S. Navy Reserve and Riverside, CA, has contributed immensely to the betterment of those with whom she comes into contact. For all that Captain Considine has done and given over the years, I am privileged to recognize her accomplishments as she retires from a profession that she gave her heart and soul too, the U.S. Navy Reserve.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday June 18, 2004*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday June 17, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 260, approving the Journal; "no" on rollcall vote No. 261, agreeing to the Hinchey amendment to H.R. 4568; "no" on rollcall vote No. 262, agreeing to the Sanders amendment to H.R. 4568; "no" on rollcall vote No. 263, agreeing to the Holt amendment to H.R. 4568; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 264, on passage of H.R. 4568, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005; "no" on rollcall vote No. 265, on agreeing to the DeFazio amendment to H.R. 4567; and "no" on rollcall vote No. 266, on agreeing to the Sweeney amendment to H.R. 4567.

HONORING MR. VANCE VAN TASSELL

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor an outstanding citizen and a great friend, Mr. Vance Van Tassell, of Granite Bay, California.

Vance was born and raised in Illinois to the son of an auctioneer and pig farmer. Following in his father's footsteps, he also became an auctioneer at a young age. In fact, throughout his college career he worked as an insurance sales auctioneer and wildcat oil man. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois where he also earned a juris doctorate degree.

In the early 1960s, Vance moved to Sacramento to take the California Bar Examination. Since founding the firm of Van Tassell, Fornasero & Wagstaffe in 1963, he has practiced law for over 40 years while maintaining a thriving auction practice as well. As a testament to both the quality of the man and his business, Vance's legal staff averages 18 years of service. One staff member has even been with the firm for 35 years. This loyalty and longevity is easy to understand as Vance has always been generous to a fault with his clients, colleagues, political causes, and many charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, more important than his professional success is the fact that Vance is the proud father of five children: Denise, Jeff, Valerie, Victoria and Courtney.

As a devoted Christian, Vance has worshipped at the Capital Christian Center for years, being of service as a volunteer and reaching out to many with the word of the Lord. Recently, the church named him Volunteer of the Year. However, due to his great humility, he was very reluctant to accept any type of acknowledgment for his many efforts.

Vance owns his dream ranch in Point Arena, along California's North Coast, where he has a small herd of longhorn cows with a bull named after his idol, Patton. He loves nothing more than entertaining people there or at his Granite Bay home. All who know him find him to be humble, caring, and giving—in short, remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of good, decent, hard-working citizens like Vance Van Tassell, that America remains a good, decent, hard-working country. Therefore, it is appropriate now to express thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Vance, for his lifetime of bettering the world around him. May our land always be blessed with more men like him.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT  
OF 2004

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, one of my top priorities in Congress is to help ease the overwhelming tax burden on families and small businesses.

I am also a firm believer in fighting for less government and more freedom, and one of

the underlying tenets of this philosophy is promoting free trade. Free trade policies provide consumers—not government—the opportunity to make their own decisions about how to spend their money.

Americans benefit from free trade and open markets every day. Free trade undeniably delivers a greater choice of goods and services at lower prices to Americans. Free trade also boosts local economies and jobs for our trading partners, which in turn, creates jobs, improves wages and the standard of living for American workers and their families here at home.

When trade grows, income flows. Reducing and eliminating barriers to trade both at home and abroad is vital to a robust U.S. economy. Nearly one in ten jobs in the United States is directly related to the export of American goods and services. I believe it is vitally important to the future of our Nation that we continue to expand trade in an effort to promote economic growth, peace and prosperity at home and abroad.

Because of my commitment to promoting unfettered trade and untying the hands of American workers and businesses I voted for the American Jobs Creation Act. This legislation will end the damaging tariffs that the European Union has imposed on a host of American goods that have hampered free trade and hurt American businesses since they were imposed in March of this year. In addition, it will decrease the tax rate for small businesses, farmers, and manufacturers and increase America's competitiveness with our global trade partners.

The United States has the second higher corporate tax burden in the world. The American Jobs Creation Act is a step in the right direction to making American companies more competitive in the world marketplace.

The American Jobs Creation Act will also help Texans and taxpayers in eight other states achieve equity under our tax code by allowing them to deduct state sales taxes from their federal income tax returns. The current system is clearly unjust, as it allows a federal tax deduction for state and local income and property taxes. Millions of people from those states that rely on sales taxes are clearly disadvantaged and overlooked by the current system and this jobs bill removes this inequity. It is estimated that the lack of this deduction robs Texans of over \$700 million and 16,000 jobs. However, the House passed version only provides this relief for two years. I strongly support a permanent state sales tax deduction, and am hopeful that Congress will make this provision permanent in the future.

Of course, I would ultimately prefer a simpler, more equitable tax-code that treats taxpayers fairly and stops trying to pick winners and losers. All Americans would be better off if Congress repealed both deductions for state and local income tax and the new state sales tax deduction, and put in their place new lower tax rates for both individuals and corporations—and made them permanent. Many of my colleagues keep forgetting that it is not our money; it's the people's money. I am committed to letting Americans keep more of what they earn, without the government stepping in and creating carve-outs, loop-holes and special interest niches.

While this legislation accomplishes several very important goals such as the elimination of tariffs and providing for state sales tax deductibility, it was not all that I had hoped for. I